

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~a complementary pair of siRNA oligomeric compounds consisting of:~~

a first ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide and a second ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide, wherein:

the first ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide and the second ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide are not covalently linked to each other;

at least a portion of the first ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide is complementary to at least a portion of the second ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide and to a target nucleic acid; and

~~the first oligomeric compound comprises a steroid attached to the 3' terminal monomeric subunit of the oligomeric compound and the second oligomeric compound comprises a steroid attached to the 5' terminal monomeric subunit of the oligomeric compound~~ at least one of the first and second oligonucleotides comprises a conjugate group.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second ~~oligomeric compounds~~ oligonucleotides comprises ~~10 to 40~~ 17 to 25 nucleotides.

5-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second ~~oligomeric compound~~ oligonucleotide comprises ~~an oligonucleotide having~~ a plurality of ribose nucleotide units.

10-100. (canceled)

101. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

102-109. (canceled)

110. (new) The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligonucleotide comprises
a 5' region comprising 2'-OCH₃ modified nucleosides;
a central region comprising β -D-ribonucleosides; and
a 3' region comprising 2'-OCH₃ modified nucleosides.

111. (new) The composition of claim 110 wherein the nucleosides in the 5' and 3' regions are joined by phosphorothioate linkages.

112. (new) The composition of claim 111 wherein the nucleosides in the central region are joined by phosphorothioate linkages.

113. (new) The composition of claim 1 wherein the second oligonucleotide comprises
a 5' region comprising nucleosides joined by phosphorothioate linkages;
a central region comprising β -D-ribonucleosides; and
a 3' region comprising nucleosides joined by phosphorothioate linkages.

114. (new) The composition of claim 113 wherein the 5' and 3' regions each independently comprise 2'-OCH₃ modified nucleosides.